

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER)
CONCERNING THE USE OF)
FACE MASKS/COVERINGS IN) Misc. No. 2:20-mc-593-MRH
PUBLIC AREAS OF THE)
DISTRICT'S COURTHOUSES)
)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
(Updated December 7, 2020)

WHEREAS, federal, state and local public health authorities have advised, and continue to advise, public and private agencies to continue to take necessary and appropriate precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") and slow the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") advises that appropriate masks or face coverings be worn in indoor settings in order to minimize the risk of personal and community infection by the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has issued urgent guidance directing the use of face coverings by persons occupying indoor spaces, including public buildings and indoor workplaces;

WHEREAS, as a public institution committed to the sound administration of equal justice under law, the Court is an essential public institution and remains open with limited staff and others physically present (*see, e.g.*, Administrative Orders entered at 2:20-mc-394-MRH);

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the health and safety of the court personnel and all others entering or doing business in the courthouses of this District, the Court already has in

place certain screening requirements (*see* Administrative Order entered at 2:20-mc-426-MRH); and,

WHEREAS, this Court will continue to take reasonable and prudent actions to further that mission consistent with public health needs and the health needs of its staff, members of the public, and others that enter the courthouses of this District.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to continue to further public health and safety, the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, vendors, contractors, and the general public, and consistent with the CDC and Department of Health guidance noted above, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. All Court personnel must wear an appropriate mask or face covering when in any Court facility. Appropriate facial masks/coverings may be temporarily removed by Court personnel when such personnel are in private work areas with no other persons present or anticipated to be present in such private work area, provided that at any time another person is present masks are worn and there is physical distancing from and among occupants of such private work space of at least six (6) feet between such persons when in the presence of one another. The use of face coverings/masks at all times in all indoor settings in any Court facility, as recommended by the CDC, is encouraged.

2. Visitors to the Court (including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public), and all other persons seeking entry to or occupying any Court facility for any business with the Court or its personnel, shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Order.

3. Any person seeking entry to the Courthouse without an appropriate mask or face covering shall be delayed by the Court Security Officers, who will inquire as to the office the

person is visiting and the purpose of the visit. The Court Security Officers or the visitor will then contact that office to determine whether the business needs can be handled other than by entry into the Court facility. The Clerk of this Court is authorized to make available and provide disposable appropriate masks for use by members of the public who appear without an appropriate mask or face covering and who are entering a Courthouse for the conduct of Court business.

4. For purposes of this Order, an “appropriate mask or face covering” is one that is worn so as to completely cover the wearer’s mouth and nostrils and does not include a “one way” or other valve, and does not include a bandana, any single-ply or “knit” fabric item, a “pulled up” shirt or jacket, a pulled down balaclava or winter knit cap, or a single-ply or “knit” “gaiter”.

5. This Order shall remain in effect until amended or vacated by further Order.

/s/ Mark R. Hornak _____

Mark R. Hornak
Chief United States District Judge

December 7, 2020